

Soil—It's the Foundation



What is Soil?

DEFINITION: Soil is the material that constitutes the outermost solid layer of the planet. Soil is a naturally occurring mixture of mineral and organic ingredients that interacts with "nature" to sustain life.



The average composition of soil by volume:

45% Minerals 25% Water 25% Air 5% Organic matter or humus



Topsoil

Subsoil

Parent Material

Topsoil

The uppermost layer of the soil.

- · Majorzone of root development
- Carries much of the nutrients to plants
- Supplies a large share of the water used by crops







Subsoil

That part of the soil below the plow depth.

Serves as a support for construction:

Buildings



• Ponds





Parent Material

Unconsolidated organic and mineral material in which soil formation begins.

Mineral material includes:

- · Partially weathered rock
- · Ash from volcanos
- Sediments moved and deposited by wind and water
- Ground up rock deposited by glaciers



Soil Functions

- As a medium of nutrient exchange
- · As an agent to distribute water
- As a support for foundations
- As a filter to protect the quality of water and air



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